

HARKNESS MODEL



Some things to consider

Pros:

- Collaborative learning by sharing thoughts
- Keeps students engaged
- Students must prepare outside of class

Cons:

- Challenging to evaluate
- Some students do not prepare
- Teacher must prepare questions to keep conversation from stalling

Tips:

- Post some essential questions ahead of time
- Do this method often, at least once a week and get other teachers to follow this model
- Assess the discussion, students need feedback
- Silence is your friend, let the conversation flow



Harkness Map



Harkness Skills

- Be prepared! Do your readings prior to attending your session.
- Talk directly to your classmates, not the teacher.
- Ask questions, no matter how simple or complex.
- Ground your comments with evidence from the sources as much and where possible.
- Answer questions from your classmates.
- Contribute ideas on all readings.
- Point out connections to other problems or issues.
- Help find a common solution to problems.
- *Always* stay involved in the discussion.
- When the discussion seems to stall, your job is to keep the conversation flowing. Dead Air is a bad thing.
- Do all that you can to help the class progress.
- Remember we are not here to debate the sources but to investigate and better understand the sources.